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Claims 1 to 32 are pending.

Claims 25 to 27 are allowed and claims 2, 4 to 6, 8 to 10, 13 to 15, 17, 19 to 21 and 23 are objected to. Claims 29 to 32 are new.

Claims 2 to 6, 13 and 17 to 19 are cancelled.

1. Claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 16, 22, 24 and 28 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Zart et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,817,905). However, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected to and cancelled claim 2, independent claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected to and cancelled claims 3 or 13 and independent claim 16 has been amended to include the subject matter of and cancelled objected to claim 17. As amended, these independent claims are now believed to be patentable over Zart et al. Claims 7, 11, 22, 24 and 28 are allowable as being hinged from patentable base claims.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

2. Claims 3 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zart et al. in view of Dantanarayana. These claims have been cancelled, which renders this rejection moot with respect to them.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

3. The Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 25 to 27.

4. The subject matter of independent claim 1 has been combined with that of claim 8 to form new claim 29.

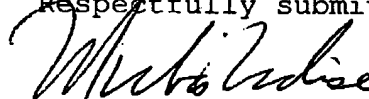
The subject matter of independent claim 1 has been combined with that of claim 10 to form new claim 30.

New claim 31 essentially includes the subject matter of independent claim 16 combined with that of claims 18 and 19.

The subject matter of independent claim 16 has been combined with that of claim 23 to form a new independent claim 32.

It is believed that claims 1, 7 to 12, 14 to 16 and 20 to 32 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael F. Scalise

Reg. No. 34,920

Greatbatch, Inc.
9645 Wehrle Drive
Clarence, New York 14031
(716) 759-5810
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